

MICHAEL D. LONG (CA State Bar #149475)
901 H Street, Suite 301
Sacramento, CA 95814
(916) 201-4188
Mike.Long.Law@msn.com

Attorney for Defendant
JOAQUIN SOTELO-VALDEZ

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,
Plaintiff,

vs.

JOSE GUADALUPE LOPEZ-ZAMORA,
LEONARDO FLORES BELTRAN,
JOAQUIN ALBERTO SOTELO VALDEZ,
ERIKA GABRIELA ZAMORA ROJO,
SANDRO ESCOBEDO,
JOSE LUIS AGUILAR SAUCEDO, and
ROSARIO ZAMORA ROJO,

Defendants.

Case No.: 2:21-cr-007 DAD

REVISED STIPULATION AND ORDER
CONTINUING STATUS CONFERENCE
AND EXCLUDING TIME UNDER THE
SPEEDY TRIAL ACT

New Date: January 16, 2024
Time: 9:30 a.m.
Court: Hon. Dale A. Drozd

Plaintiff United States of America by and through Assistant United States Attorney David
Spencer, and Attorney Todd Leras on behalf of Defendant Jose Lopez Zamora, Attorney
Christopher Cosca on behalf of Defendant Leonardo Flores Beltran, Attorney Michael Long on
behalf of Defendant Joaquin Sotelo Valdez, Attorney Jennifer Mouzis on behalf of Defendant
Erika Zamora Rojo, Attorney Dina Santos on behalf of Defendant Jose Aguilar Saucedo, and
ORDER CONTINUING STATUS
CONFERENCE

Attorney Shari Rusk on behalf of Defendant Rosario Zamora Rojo, stipulate as follows:

1. This matter is set for a status conference on September 26, 2023. Defendants move to continue the status conference to January 16, 2024.
2. This case alleges the existence of a drug distribution conspiracy involving, among other substances, fentanyl, cocaine, and methamphetamine. The Drug Enforcement Administration's investigation included controlled purchases of various controlled substances and the use of Court-authorized wiretaps on telephones associated with the drug distribution conspiracy, including a phone being used to coordinate deliveries from Mexico.
3. This matter has been reassigned three times (ECF Entry 226 – from Judge England to Judge Mendez; ECF Entry 317 – from Judge Mendez to Judge Nunley; and ECF Entry 357 – from Judge Nunley to this Court). On March 3, 2022, the United States filed a Superseding Indictment (ECF Entry 276). The Superseding Indictment included, among other changes from the original Indictment, expansion of the date range for the charged conspiracy by approximately one year. It also added a money laundering conspiracy and heroin distribution charges.
4. On August 24, 2023, the Court arraigned Sandro Escobedo and appointed Susan K. Gellman to represent him. (ECF Entry 481.) On October 11, 2022, Attorney Martin Tejeda filed a Motion to Withdraw as Counsel of Record for Defendant Erika Zamora Rojo (ECF Entry 382). This Court heard and granted the motion to withdraw on October 25, 2022. (ECF Entry 393). The Court granted a substitution request allowing Attorney Jennifer Mouzis to represent Defendant Erika Zamora Rojo as

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- 1 appointed counsel in this matter on December 5, 2022. (ECF Entry 408).
- 2 5. The discovery in this case is voluminous. The government provided several rounds
- 3 of discovery productions which included approximately 7,800 pages of reports,
- 4 transcripts, photographs, and other materials produced during the investigation. The
- 5 intercepted telephone calls alone comprise hundreds of hours of conversations
- 6 between various participants in both English and Spanish. On January 19, 2023, this
- 7 Court approved the appointment of Discovery Coordinating Attorney John C. Ellis to
- 8 assist with the discovery materials produced by the government. (ECF Entry 426).
- 9
- 10 6. Upon returning from her father's memorial service in Pennsylvania, on Wednesday of
- 11 this week, Susan Gellman received in the mail from the coordinating discovery John
- 12 Ellis, a 4 TB hard drive containing all of the discovery in this case. Ms. Gellman is
- 13 now just starting to view the reports, audios and videos provided by the government
- 14 via John Ellis. Ms. Gellman anticipates that reviewing the provided discovery will
- 15 take her until mid-January of 2024. Ms. Gellman has yet to meet with her new client,
- 16 Sandro Escobedo, because he is still housed by the CDCR in North Kern State Prison,
- 17 which is located in Delano, CA. Once Mr. Escobedo is in federal custody, Mr.
- 18 Gellman will be able to begin showing the discovery to Mr. Escobedo. Until she is
- 19 able to meet with Mr. Escobedo, she cannot discuss the Indictment, the legal motions
- 20 and discovery with him, and she cannot advise him about potential resolution versus a
- 21 jury trial. Ms. Gellman needs until our requested new date of January 16, 2024, to
- 22 review the discovery herself, and also with Mr. Escobedo, so she can provide him
- 23 effective advice regarding resolving with a plea agreement versus demanding a jury
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- 1 trial.
- 2 7. On September 21, 2023, AUSA David Spencer has informed undersigned counsel
- 3 that if this case proceeds to jury trial, he would argue for Sandro Escobedo to be tried
- 4 in the same jury trial along with all other defendants who have not resolved with a
- 5 guilty plea.
- 6
- 7 8. During the first week of March, 2023, Mr. Ellis produced to defense counsel flash
- 8 drives containing the complete discovery materials (the “March 2023 production”)
- 9 produced to date along with various tools to assist defense counsel with accessing
- 10 them. The March, 2023 production allowed access to additional materials which
- 11 expanded the volume of discovery to approximately 55,500 pages of material. Mr.
- 12 Ellis provided a training session to defense counsel to provide instruction in how to
- 13 access and manage various case materials within the March 2023 production. [Note:
- 14 this is the same discovery attorney Susan Gellman received on Tuesday, September
- 15 19, 2023.]
- 16
- 17 9. This case is “complex” within the meaning of 18 U.S.C. § 3161(h)(7)(A), (B)(ii)
- 18 [Local Code T-2], as this Court previously found in its February 10, 2021 Order (ECF
- 19 Entry 103) and subsequent orders.
- 20
- 21 10. Defendants Lopez Zamora is housed at the Yuba County Jail in Marysville,
- 22 California. Defendant Sotelo Valdez is housed at the Wayne Brown Correctional
- 23 Facility (WBCF) in Nevada City, California. The Yuba County Jail is approximately
- 24 forty-two miles from downtown Sacramento, while the distance to WBCF is
- 25 approximately sixty-five miles. Attorney travel for client visits is therefore a
- 26
- 27

1 necessary part of discovery review and defense preparation in this case. In addition,
2 both the Yuba County Jail and WBCF restrict when attorneys can use electronic
3 devices to access audio and video evidence during client meetings. These restrictions
4 complicate review of recorded portions of the discovery with Mr. Lopez Zamora and
5 Mr. Sotelo Valdez.
6

7 11. All defense counsel require additional time to continue review of the discovery
8 materials with their respective clients and to conduct defense investigation stemming
9 from them.
10

11 12. Given the continuing defense review of the discovery materials and investigation of
12 matters related to them, including those materials accessible following the March
13 2023 production, Defendants request to continue the status conference to January 16,
14 2024. They further move to exclude time between September 26, 2023, and January
15 16, 2024, inclusive, under Local Code T-4. The government does not oppose the
16 request.
17

18 13. All defense counsel represent and believe that failure to grant additional time as
19 requested would deny Defendants the reasonable time necessary for effective
20 preparation, considering the exercise of due diligence.
21

22 14. Based on the above-stated facts, Defendants jointly request that the Court find that the
23 ends of justice served by continuing the case as requested outweigh the best interest
24 of the public and the Defendants in a trial within the time prescribed by the Speedy
25 Trial Act.
26

27 15. For the purpose of computing time under the Speedy Trial Act, 18 U.S.C. § 3161, *et*
28

1 *seq.*, within which trial must commence, the time period of September 26, 2023, and
2 January 16, 2024, inclusive, is deemed excludable pursuant to 18 U.S.C. §
3 3161(h)(7)(A), and (B) (iv) [Local Code T-4] and 18 U.S.C. § 3161(h)(7)(A), and B
4 (ii) [Local Code T-2] because it results from a continuance granted by the Court at
5 Defendants' request on the basis that the ends of justice served by taking such action
6 outweigh the best interest of the public and the Defendants in a speedy trial.
7

8 16. Nothing in this stipulation and order shall preclude a finding that other provisions of
9 the Speedy Trial Act dictate that additional time periods are excludable from the
10 period within which a trial must commence.
11

12 Assistant U.S. Attorney David Spencer, Attorney Christopher Cosca on behalf of
13 Defendant Leonardo Flores Beltran, Attorney Susan Gellman on behalf of Defendant Sandro
14 Escobedo, Attorney Michael Long on behalf of Defendant Joaquin Sotelo Valdez, Attorney
15 Jennifer Mouzis on behalf of Defendant Erika Zamora Rojo, Attorney Dina Santos on behalf of
16 Defendant Jose Aguilar Saucedo, and Attorney Shari Rusk on behalf of Defendant Rosario
17 Zamora Rojo, have reviewed this stipulation and proposed order and authorized Michael Long
18 via email to sign it on behalf of their respective clients.
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24 DATED: September 21, 2023

PHILLIP A. TALBERT
United States Attorney

25
26 By /s/ Michael Long for
DAVID SPENCER
Assistant United States Attorney
27

28 ORDER CONTINUING STATUS
CONFERENCE

DATED: September 21, 2023

By /s/ Michael Long for
TODD D. LERAS
Attorney for Defendant
JOSE LOPEZ ZAMORA

DATED: September 21, 2023

By /s/ Michael Long for
CHRISTOPHER COSCA
Attorney for Defendant
LEONARDO FLORES BELTRAN

DATED: September 21, 2023

By /s/ Michael Long
MICHAEL D. LONG,
Attorney for Defendant
JOAQUIN SOTELO VALDEZ

DATED: September 21, 2023

By /s/ Michael Long for
JENNIFER MOUZIS
Attorney for Defendant
ERIKA ZAMORA ROJO

DATED: September 21, 2023

By /s/ Michael Long for
DINA SANTOS
Attorney for Defendant
JOSE AGUILAR SAUCEDO

DATED: September 21, 2023

By /s/ Michael Long for
SHARI RUSK
Attorney for Defendant
ROSARIO ZAMORA ROJO

DATED: September 21, 2023

By /s/ Michael Long for
SUSAN K. GELLMAN
Attorney for Defendant
SANDRO ESCOBEDO

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CONFERENCE

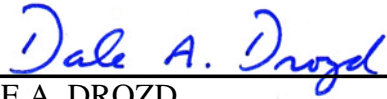
ORDER

BASED ON THE REPRESENTATIONS AND STIPULATION OF THE PARTIES, it is hereby ordered that the status conference in this matter, scheduled for September 26, 2023, is vacated. A new status conference is scheduled for January 16, 2024, at 9:30 a.m. The Court further finds, based on the representations of the parties and the request of all defense counsel, that the ends of justice served by granting the continuance outweigh the best interests of the public and the Defendants in a speedy trial. Time shall be excluded under the Speedy Trial Act, 18 U.S.C. § 3161(h)(7)(A), (B)(iv) [Local Code T-4] and 18 U.S.C. § 31616(h)(A), (B)(ii) [Local Code T-2], to allow necessary attorney preparation taking into consideration the exercise of due diligence for the period from September 26, 2023, up to and including January 16, 2024.

However, the undersigned will not continue the January 16, 2024 status conference scheduled by this order any further absent a new, truly compelling showing of good cause. The court notes that this case was indicted in early 2021 and the superseding indictment was returned over eighteen months ago. Accordingly, all counsel are directed to be prepared to set a trial date at the January 16, 2024 status conference.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

Dated: September 21, 2023


DALE A. DROZD
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE

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CONFERENCE